

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a listing of the claims as pending in the application that replaces all previously filed claim listings:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for managing risk through link analysis mapping, the method comprising:

receiving, into a memory of a computer system, information descriptive of two or more persons and a plurality of association types;

generating, in the computer system, links associating two or more persons based upon the received information, wherein the links indicate a relationship between the two or more persons and an association type;

receiving a linkage analysis request into the memory an identifier-identifying a person and requesting links with a predefined specified number of degrees of separation associated with the identified person;

processing the linkage analysis request associating two or more persons to determine qualifying links for inclusion in the linkage analysis based on an association type;

generating, in the computer system, a link-linkage analysis report associating the identified person with one or more other persons with the specified number of degrees of separation based on the processed qualifying links; and

outputting for utilization in risk management an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons with the predefined specified number of degrees

~~of separation and the link analysis report that includes~~ an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons, wherein the disconnect indicates a separation in time ~~regarding the link associating between~~ the identified person ~~with and~~ the one or more other persons.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of receiving into the computer system an indication of a particular type of link to be analyzed.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of indicating in the computer system a degree of separation between the identified person and the linked person.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the person comprises at least one of: an individual, a group, an organization, a corporation and an entity.

5. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for managing risk through link analysis mapping, the system comprising:

a computer server accessible with a system access device via a communications network; and

executable software stored on the server and executable on demand, the software operative with the server to cause the server to:

receive information descriptive of two or more persons and a plurality of association types;

generate links associating two or more persons based upon the received information, wherein the links indicate a relationship between the two or more persons and an association type;

receive a linkage analysis request an identifier identifying a person and requesting links with a predefined specified number of degrees of separation associated with the identified person;

process the linkage analysis request associating two or more persons to determine qualifying links for inclusion in the linkage analysis based on an association type;

generate a link linkage analysis report associating the identified person with one or more other persons with the predefined specified number of degrees of separation based on the processed qualifying links; and

output for utilization in risk management an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons with the predefined specified number of degrees of separation and the link analysis report that includes an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons, wherein the disconnect indicates a separation in time regarding the link associating between the identified person with and the one or more other persons.

6. (Original) The computerized system of claim 5 wherein the system access device comprises at least one of a computer and a personal digital assistant.

7. (Original) The computerized system of claim 5 wherein the communications network conforms to the transmission control protocol/internet protocol.

8. (Original) The computerized system of claim 5 wherein the software operative with the server additionally causes the system to at least one of:

receive an indication of a particular type of link to be analyzed; and

indicate a degree of separation between the identified person and the linked person.

9. (Original) The computerized system of claim 5 wherein the person comprises at least one of: an individual, a group, an organization, a corporation and an entity.

10. (Currently Amended) Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code operable with a processor on a computer system for causing the computer system to:

receive information into a memory of the computer system descriptive of two or more persons and a plurality of association types;

generate, in the computer system, links associating two or more persons based upon the received information, wherein the links indicate a relationship between the two or more persons and an association type;

receive a linkage analysis request into the computer system an identifier identifying a person and requesting links with a predefined specified number of decrees degrees of separation associated with the identified person;

process the linkage analysis request associating two or more persons to determine qualifying links for inclusion in the linkage analysis based on an association type;

generate a link linkage analysis report associating the identified person with one or more other persons with the predefined specified number of degrees of separation based on the processed qualifying links; and

output for utilization in risk management an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons with the predefined specified number of degrees

~~of separation and the link analysis report that includes~~ an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons, wherein the disconnect indicates a separation in time ~~regarding the link associating between~~ the identified person ~~with and~~ the one or more other persons.

11. (Original) The computer executable program of claim 10 wherein the program code additionally causes the computer to at least one of:

receive an indication of a particular type of link to be analyzed; and

indicate a degree of separation between the identified person and the linked person.

12. (Original) The computer executable program of claim 10 wherein the person comprises at least one of: an individual, a group, an organization, a corporation and an entity.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of interacting with a network access device so as to manage risk, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting from the network access device a description of a person;

transmitting from the network access device ~~a linkage analysis request requesting links with a specific predefined number of degrees indication of a degree of separation associated with the person for which links to the person are desired;~~

~~processing the linkage analysis request to determine qualifying links for inclusion in the linkage analysis based on generated links indicating a relationship between two or more persons and an association type;~~

~~receiving, at the network access device, an indication of links a link analysis report associating the person with to one or more other persons, wherein the links indicate a relationship~~

~~between the two or more persons~~ with the predefined specified number of degrees of separation based on the processed qualifying links; and

receiving at the network access device a description of each link in the link analysis report; and

outputting at the network access device for utilization in risk management ~~an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons with the predefined specified number of degrees of separation and the link analysis report that includes~~ an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons, wherein the disconnect indicates a separation in time ~~regarding the link associating between~~ the identified person ~~with and~~ the one or more other persons.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the person comprises at least one of: an individual, a group, an organization, a corporation and an entity.

15. (Previously Canceled).

16 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the association types include at least one of: family relation, business partner, disparate board, board, employment, charity, political party, fraternal organization types of data.